



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Public Works

Date: July 8, 2014

To: Honorable Kevin Reich, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee

Referral: Honorable John Quincy, Chair Ways & Means Committee

Subject: **7th St Ramp Project**

Recommendation:

- A. Authorize acceptance of the Transportation Economic Development program grant funds in the amount of \$6,790,000.
- B. Amend the 2014 Adopted Capital Budget resolution 2013R-573 to establish CBR130 7th St Ramp Project. Increase appropriation and revenue source as follows: 04100-9010938-321510 \$6,790,000 Transportation and Economic Development Program funds.
- C. Authorize the proper city officers to execute a contract with SRF Consulting Group, Inc to provide professional services for project management, community outreach and final design related to the 7th St Ramp Project in the amount of \$799,700.
- D. Approve the project layout.

Previous Directives:

- May 10, 2013 – City Council authorized the proper City officers to submit a funding application to the Minnesota Department of Transportation Transportation and Economic Development Program.

Department Information:

Prepared by: Jenifer Hager, Principal Professional Engineer, 673-3625

Approved by: _____

Steven A. Kotke, P.E., Director of Public Works

Presenters in Committee: Jenifer Hager

Financial Impact

- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget
Dept Name: Public Works
Fund Name: 04100- Capital
Project Name & Number: CBR130 7th St Ramp Bridge over 35W
Amount: \$6,790,000
- Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase
Dept Name: Public Works
Fund Name: 04100- Capital
Project Name & Number: CBR130 7th St Ramp Bridge over 35W
Amount: \$6,790,000
- Action is within the Business Plan
- Request provided to the Finance Department

Community Impact

City Goals: Jobs & Economic Vitality - Planes, trains and streetcars move goods and workers smartly; Strong commercial corridors, thriving business corners. Livable Communities, Healthy Lives - Equitable, integrated transit system.

Supporting Information

In 2013 the City applied for and was awarded funding in the amount of \$6,790,000 from the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) Transportation and Economic Development Program (TED). The project is to realign the I94W exit from 5th St to 7th St in Downtown as recommended in the Downtown Freeway Study and the Downtown Action Plan. The local match for this project is proposed in the capital improvement program for 2015 and will include \$3,000,000 of net debt bonds and \$710,000 of municipal state aid funding for a total project budget of \$10,500,000.

The City will be taking the lead on the design of this project and is working closely with MnDOT; MnDOT will own and operate this new bridge once construction is complete. In accordance with the requirements of the grant program, the project must be bid by June of 2015 however the project must also show substantial progress by January of 2015 in order to retain the grant funding.

Work on this project began late in 2013 with the development of a scope of work. A consultant was brought on board through the Public Works consultant pool. Selection of that consultant was made after interviewing two different firms. The scope of work was to bring the project through the environmental review process and get an approved layout after which it was thought that MnDOT would lead final design. However, as work progressed, MnDOT determined that they would not be able to do the final design as had been anticipated. As a result, the City will lead final design of this project and will need to hire a consultant to provide professional services related to final design, project management and community engagement. The cost to complete this work will exceed the maximum allowed for a single scope of work in the Public Works Consultant Pool and the timeline dictated by the grant program does not allow for the time needed to issue an RFP therefore a waiver was requested.

The Permanent Review Committee granted a waiver from the Request for Proposals process for the recommended contract on June 26, 2014. SRF Consulting Group is best poised to proceed with final design on the timeline required by the grant program and is qualified to do

so. SRF Consulting Group became a member of the Public Works Consulting Pool as a result of a formal RFP process and was selected for this project based upon their qualifications.

This action is within the current project budget.

The project team also seeks approval of the project layout which has been developed based on community engagement and close coordination between agencies. The signal that is proposed at the intersection of 7th St and 13th Ave is a direct result of community input. Enhanced transit accommodations were also considered but are not recommended after reviewing the cost/benefit; transit travel times to the core via 7th St are improved over the existing route by more than one minute as a result of the realignment even without any enhanced accommodations. In addition, parking changes and/or removals are expected along the north side of 7th Street between 13th and 11th Avenues.

Attachments:

TED Program Funding Approval Letter
Project Layout